



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 November 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- *Reuters* reports that UK officials have confirmed a second outbreak of bird flu in as many weeks. An agriculture ministry spokesperson said all the turkeys at the site have been culled, a new protection zone had been established around the second farm, and the surveillance zone had been extended. (See item [20](#))
- *IDG News Service* reports that, according to a new study by the independent Nemertes Research Group, rapidly expanding consumer and corporate use of the Internet could overwhelm current capacity and lead to Internet brown-outs by 2010 unless backbone providers invest up to \$137 billion in new capacity, more than double what service providers plan to invest. (See item [28](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 20, Bloomberg* – (Texas) **Houston Channel may reopen to tankers.** The 54-mile Houston Ship Channel was closed to ships early Monday morning by the Houston Pilots Organization due to increasingly thick fog. The channel, which serves the largest U.S. petroleum port, was still shut down early Tuesday morning, as forty-four inbound and 18 departing vessels remained idle. One of those ships was carrying liquefied natural gas. The Houston Ship Channel typically has 55 vessel movements a day. It takes two to three days before a channel shutdown begins to affect operations at

Houston-area refineries.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=ahygHs_AESA0&refer=energy

2. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Midwest) **Squirrels briefly kill power in 2 cities.** A spokesman for Xcel Energy said a squirrel came in contact with an overhead transformer and knocked out service to 177 customers Monday in Ashland, Wisconsin. Power was fully restored in just under an hour. Coincidentally, another squirrel got into a substation 40 miles away in Ironwood, Michigan, Monday morning and caused a temporary outage that affected about 1,400 customers. The spokesman said that the utility takes many preventive steps to keep the animals away from lines, but they are one of the leading causes of outages, trailing only severe weather.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071120/ap_on_re_us/odd_squirrel_outages;_ylt=AjCP_P CpZg2eaq1oihUtk.6s0NUE

3. *November 19, Platts* – (National) **GSA seeks 17,000 MWh of renewable certificates for two regions.** The General Services Administration (GSA) is seeking about 17,000 MWh of renewable energy certificates (RECs) for federal facilities in its Heartland and Mid-Atlantic regions. GSA's Heartland region includes Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. The Mid-Atlantic covers Delaware, Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. It seeks RECs to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating for new construction and major renovations from the U.S. Green Buildings Council. It will require 11,935 MWh of RECs in the Heartland region and 5,000 MWh in the Mid-Atlantic.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6603363.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Crews find no new signs of chemical weapon at arsenal.** Crews have completed an investigation of a section of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal where lewisite, a mustard gas-like blistering agent, was detected last month during cleanup work. Workers have not found any more traces of the chemical. The Army manufactured chemical weapons and Shell Oil produced pesticides for decades at the arsenal, which is 10 miles northeast of Denver. More than 12,000 acres of the 17,000-acre arsenal have been removed from the Superfund site and turned into a wildlife refuge. Cleanup is expected to be finished in 2011. After lewisite was detected, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge was closed. It is not clear when it will be opened.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=81320>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 20, Platts* – (Alabama) **NRC made redacted version of TVA’s Bellefonte new reactor license public.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission made a redacted version of Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) Bellefonte new reactor license application public November 19, the agency said. A version of the application with proprietary and security-related details redacted is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/newlicensing/col.html>. The TVA, with the support of the industry consortium NuStart Energy, filed October 30 for a combined construction permit-operating license which would allow TVA to build two AP1000 reactors at the site near Scottsboro, Alabama. NRC staff is reviewing the application for completeness. If NRC determines it has sufficient information for formal review to start, the completed application will be docketed.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/8368850.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

6. *November 20, Centre Daily Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Nuclear leak apparently fixed, agency says.** A water leak at Pennsylvania State’s Breazeale Nuclear Reactor appears to have been plugged, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported Monday. The source and precise location of the leak, detected October 9 in the reactor pool, remained a mystery for more than a month. Work to re-coat the south end of the pool seems to have stopped the problem, said a NRC spokesman. Water that refilled the south end late last week appears to be staying put. The problem could have been “a very small crack that visual inspections did not detect,” the spokesman said. “They may never know the exact source of the leakage.” At one point, Penn State estimated the leak to be about 10 gallons an hour. The 71,000-gallon pool, built some 52 years ago, holds the low-power research reactor underwater. Radiation in the water is nominal, but more than three times the safe-drinking-water limit established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/news/local/story/266323.html>

7. *November 19, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **NRC special team leaves Farley, increased oversight continues.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Monday that its additional inspectors have left the Farley Nuclear Plant, but the NRC plans to keep a close watch on the plant after a string of breaker failures raised safety concerns. Farley officials said they are confident the causes of the failures have been identified and that action has been taken to make sure similar problems do not arise again. The NRC and Farley managers held a public meeting Monday to discuss the findings of an Augmented Inspection Team from Atlanta, which was sent to examine Farley’s equipment and the procedures used to correct and prevent equipment failures. The additional NRC inspectors were sent in after some breaker failures were identified by Farley staff. In all, six breaker failures were reported. At least one of them affected an operating system that could have prevented important safety equipment from working in the event of a shutdown. The other failures happened during testing or when the reactor was already shut down.

Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20071119/APN/711191005>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *November 20, Mass High Tech* – (National) **General Dynamics lands defense deal.** General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems has landed a deal with the U.S. Navy to provide the navy with fire control and attack weapon control systems in the United States and the United Kingdom. Work began in October and is expected to last through April 2011. General Dynamics won a technology services contract with the U.S. Air Force in August.
Source:
http://www.bizjournals.com/masshightech/stories/2007/11/19/daily11.html?ana=from_rss
9. *November 19, Congress Daily* – (National) **Army says latest funding cut will delay transformation.** Senior Army officials are bemoaning a \$206 million cut to their premier transformation program in the recently enacted fiscal 2008 Defense appropriations bill. The cut, according to the Army Secretary, could have a significant effect on the Future Combat Systems (FCS) and ultimately drive up costs on the transformation program, now estimated to cost \$160 billion. In particular, the cut in this year's bill could slow development of the Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon, the first of several FCS ground vehicles the Army intends to field, as well as other systems that are in the works. The Army Secretary said roughly \$850 million in cuts imposed by Congress in the last several years have caused delays and forced the Army to revise its plans for the program, which envisions fielding a sprawling system of manned and unmanned air and land vehicles connected by an advanced communications network.
Source:http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38624&dcn=todaysnews

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *November 20, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas; National) **Comcast warns of *72 phone-forwarding scam.** Comcast is warning its customers about an upswing in phone scams by Harris County, Texas, jail inmates in recent weeks. The service provider called its telephone customers with a recorded message to warn of the so-called *72 scam. The fraud involves an inmate calling a person collect and tricking the victim into forwarding his phone to another number. The person at the other number then can make hundreds of dollars in long distance calls that are billed to the victim's phone. The scam is not exclusive to Comcast. AT&T and Verizon officials report the same problems are happening nationwide. A Verizon spokesman said there are a number of telephone scams that include calling card and credit card number theft, third-number billing and identity theft. A Sheriff's Office spokesman said the *72 fraud has been going on for a long time. He said it is difficult to track down the person who made the call because it takes place on a phone in a cell block with 20 to 30 inmates. He said some Comcast customers were billed for long-distance calls to foreign countries. The sheriff declined to

say how many customers have been victimized. Telephone company representatives advise people to hang up the phone when they are suspicious or to ask pointed questions, such as requesting a call-back number. Telephone company officials said that if a customer is victimized, the companies will work with him or her to remove the fraudulent charges.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5315402.html>

11. *November 19, Cincinnati Post* – (National) **‘Vishing’ is newest card scam.** “Please notice that your VISA card is now disabled and you will not be able to use it. ... This is a security measure made by your bank. ...” This e-mail and many others just like it represent one of the latest trends in computer-based scams known as “vishing,” short for voice phishing. Like e-mail phishing operations, vishing also works by tricking people into handing over confidential financial account information. But instead of directing people to bogus Web sites, vishing scams instruct victims to call a phony company phone number, where they are typically directed to enter their identification numbers to rectify some fictitious problem with their accounts. By using Voice over Internet Protocol technology, scammers know they can hide the source of the call. Some vishers have even learned how to misrepresent the call’s source in the victim’s caller ID display as that of a financial institution. Last year, many vishing scams targeted customers of eBay’s online payment service, PayPal. But this year, experts say voice phishing has moved beyond large credit card and online payment company customers to clients of smaller financial institutions.

Source:

<http://news.cincypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071119/NEWS01/711190375>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

12. *November 20, Reuters* – (Texas) **1-50 ships backed up at Houston Channel--Coast Guard.** Ship movement was halted in the Houston Ship Channel on Monday after a dense sea fog made it unsafe to steer ships along the channel. About 40 ships were waiting to enter the 53-mile waterway to the busiest U.S. petrochemical port, and about 12 ships were waiting to exit, as the fog was dissipating Tuesday morning, the Coast Guard said. Ships were already moving at the southern end of the channel from the port of Texas City, Texas, according to the Coast Guard Houston Vessel Traffic Center. At the port of Houston, ship pilots were scheduled to resume moving the ships along the channel by no later than 8 a.m. Some ships were able to move outbound from the channel on Monday afternoon.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2056232820071120>

13. *November 20, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Glitch delays start of travel rush.** A glitch in the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) radio communications system to the east and west towers at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport caused modest but widespread delays all day for flights into and out of the world’s third-busiest airport. The problems also extended to Dallas Love Field, which experienced delays of up to 90 minutes. The cause of the glitch was still under investigation Monday, although an FAA

spokesman said operations were expected to return to normal on Tuesday.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/112007dnbusdfwairport.1d2474fc.html#>

14. *November 19, News Channel 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee; National) **Air traffic errors rise with controllers' stress.** According to News Channel 5 reporters, tapes obtained from Nashville's air traffic control revealed controllers making mistakes and letting aircrafts get too close. "There are facilities around the country that are having epidemic errors," said the president of the local chapter of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. "There's some facilities that are having four, five and six errors in a week. That's pretty unheard of -- and it's fatigue." The fatigue, the local union president says, is caused by a controller shortage that has many of them directing flights six days a week, sometimes 10 hours a day. Two years ago, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) says, there were just three such serious mistakes by controllers, called operational errors. Last year, that number doubled to six. The FAA insists there is no controller crisis and that the union's just trying to get a better contract. The FAA also dismisses concerns about the six-day work week, saying only one of the six errors this year came on the sixth day. The controller shortage was caused by many controllers becoming eligible for retirement at the same time.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=7383595>

15. *November 19, NBC 5 Dallas* – (Texas; National) **Air traffic controllers say they need more staffing.** According to air traffic controllers, short staffing at a local control center caused delays and even potential dangers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in Texas. They told NBC 5 controller fatigue had even led to recent cases in which planes have come too close to each other over north Texas. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), it takes 83 to 101 controllers to run the facility. Currently, 83 are on staff. But 16 are trainees, and some can perform only basic functions. Controllers told NBC 5 they are working six-day weeks to fill the gaps. They said they are tired and they are making mistakes. There have been 50 operational errors at the facility this year. The shortage of controllers, a nationwide problem, is fueled by a wave of retirements. At least nine controllers have retired at DFW TRACON since last year. Starting in January, the facility could lose dozens more -- 24 more controllers will be eligible to retire in 2008. However, the FAA said the facility is adequately staffed.

Source: <http://www.nbc5i.com/news/14645249/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *November 20, Foodnavigator-usa.com* – (National) **FDA funds anti-food terrorism efforts.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Monday that it is providing three-year grants worth \$250,000 a year to the Texas Department of State Health Services Laboratory, the New York Health Research/New York Department of Health, and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene as part of the FDA's recently announced Food Protection Plan. The FDA said the lab grants will expand the testing program of its Office of Regulatory Affairs to address the threat to food safety through radiological terrorism events. In addition, they will help spot accidental contamination. The grants will be used for supplies, personnel, and facility upgrades. The labs will also receive training in current food testing methodologies and participate in method development and validation, proficiency testing, and food defense surveillance assignments. A number of changes in efforts to ensure food safety have been made this year, following numerous high profile contamination cases. Earlier this month, the U.S. government announced measures including more stringent inspections, stronger penalties and mandatory recalls.
Source:
<http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/news/ng.asp?n=81479-food-safety-contamination-radiological-terrorism>
17. *November 19, Bloomberg* – (National) **Australian bees not behind malady destroying hives.** Australian bees are not responsible for the deaths of billions of U.S. honeybees in the past year, according to scientists at the government's Agricultural Research Service. The Acute Israeli Paralysis Virus (IAPV) has been in the U.S. since at least 2002, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists said. That is three years before Australian bees, identified as carriers of the virus, were first imported. A USDA researcher says the study does not rule out IAPV as a factor behind Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD); it only "challenges the idea that IAPV is a recent introduction from Australia." CCD threatens \$14.6 billion of U.S. crops, including almonds, apples and cherries, which rely on bees for pollination. It may cause \$75 billion of economic damage if left unchecked.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601081&sid=acqaSOBfb9zA&refer=australia>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

18. *November 19, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Cleanup of tainted water delayed.** After a year of dead-locked debate over the Ashumet Valley plume cleanup in Massachusetts, Air Force and environmental officials are putting their dispute on hold. The two agencies have agreed to disagree about the best way to clean up the southern portion of the solvent plume, which flows into East Falmouth. But Air Force leaders will collect more information on the contamination in hopes the data will help the agencies reach a consensus on a cleanup plan by mid-March next year. The plume flows from a former firefighter training area at Otis Air Base. It migrates through the groundwater, which is the area's main source of drinking water. No residents are believed to be drinking the tainted water. Over the past year, Air Force and Environmental Protection

Agency officials have debated the best way to clean up the remnants of the plume, with Air Force officials saying it should be allowed to naturally dilute to safe drinking water levels and Environmental Protection Agency officials proposing adding two new wells to an already functioning groundwater cleanup system. The latter option would cost \$9.3 million more, but it would clean twice the amount of solvents and get the plume to safe drinking water levels faster.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071119/NEWS/711190307>

19. *November 17, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Flaws, pipe fed water problem.**

Breakdowns around virtually every corner of the Palm Beach, Florida, water plant created “the perfect storm” for the recent outbreak of fecal coliform bacteria, an independent consultant said November 16. Poor disinfection, caused primarily by a 3-foot-diameter pipe that was never properly sealed off in 1993 and shortened the amount of time bacteria-killing chemicals could work, was the main problem, according to a report issued by U.S. Water Services Corp. But an array of other deficiencies at the plant -- from broken valves to flawed water-sampling to poorly trained staff -- added to the problem, the report said. Many of the problems, such as major filtering troubles and concerns about where chemicals were being added to the water, were identified by county health department inspectors years ago and have long been a source of concern for many plant employees, who have complained of neglect by city leaders. The city is moving quickly to make initial repairs, but officials say the water remains safe for residents to drink.

Source:

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/epaper/2007/11/17/s1a_water_1117.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *November 20, Reuters* – (International) **UK confirms deadly bird flu on second farm.**

The H5N1 bird flu virus has spread to a second poultry farm in Britain after having been discovered at the Redgrave Park farm in Suffolk first on November 13. An agriculture ministry spokesperson said the farm was one of the “dangerous contacts” established last week and all the turkeys at the site in the east of England have been culled. He added that a new protection zone had been established around the second farm and the surveillance zone had been extended.

Source:

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=31&art_id=nw20071119230333495C647594

21. *November 20, E-Week* – (California) **FCC launches health networks initiative.**

The Federal Communications Commission has allocated \$417 million to help build 69 statewide or regional broadband telehealth networks across 42 states and three U.S. territories. The initiative is part of the Rural Health Care Pilot Program and aims at

making easier for people living in rural areas to get better health care at a reasonable cost. The agency, which allocated the funding November 19, said the pilot program will reduce human error and allow patients to receive care remotely in some cases. The funding will support the connection of more than 6,000 public and non-profit health care providers nationwide to broadband telehealth networks, which can be used to transmit health records and process transactions securely. Hospitals, clinics, universities and research centers, behavioral health sites, correctional facility clinics, and community health centers are all participating in the program. “Broadband infrastructure for health care is particularly critical to those living in rural areas, where access to medical services can be limited,” the FCC chairman said. “This may not seem like a big deal to those of us who need only drive a couple miles to visit our local doctor or dentist. But it can mean everything to those patients who don’t have that luxury or who don’t have access to health care at all.”

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2219302,00.asp>

Government Facilities Sector

22. *November 20, WKBT 8 La Crosse* – (Wisconsin) **BRF High School evacuated.**

Chlorine fumes forced students and staff at Black River Falls High School in Wisconsin to evacuate the school Monday. The fire department was called to the school after a custodian was overcome by fumes while trying to unclog a restroom floor drain by pouring bleach in the drain. The fumes spread into the hallway, and several students reported not feeling well. One was taken to the hospital. Authorities eventually evacuated the entire building, while they flushed the drain. Students and staff were moved to the nearby middle school building before later returning to the high school.

Source: <http://wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=7387009>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

23. *November 20, Times-Tribune* – (Pennsylvania) **Keystone drill tests emergency**

response. A freshman was held against his will Monday by a gunman in Koelsch Art Center at Keystone College in Pennsylvania. The staged hostage situation was part of a four-hour drill that involved more than 250 people throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. “My heart was pounding,” said the student after members of the Special Weapons and Tactics unit rushed into the hall with guns to take down the hostage-taker. As part of the drill, five people were transported to Tyler Memorial Hospital in Tunkhannock with simulated injuries, and 10 people, including the hostage-taker, died. Five hostages were held in two buildings during the drill and an information post was set up at the Ramada in Clarks Summit so parents could obtain information about their children. A command post was also set up at Hibbard Campus Center and emergency vehicles were stationed throughout the campus. As members from the Lackawanna County SWAT team and the Scranton Police Department Special Operations Group traversed Keystone’s campus, college employees provided counseling. Noting that

violent episodes such as what happened on April 16 at Virginia Tech University could occur at schools here, Wyoming County Emergency Management Agency's coordinator said emergency responders and law enforcement want to be prepared.

Source: [http://www.thetimes-](http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19040718&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept_id=416046&rft=6)

[tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19040718&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept_id=416046&rft=6](http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19040718&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept_id=416046&rft=6)

24. *November 19, thedenverchannel.com* – (Colorado) **Mass vaccination drill reveals challenges.** To test the state's readiness for a public health emergency, Colorado health officials conducted the largest mass vaccination in the country Saturday morning. More than 10,000 people lined up for free flu vaccinations, as part of an emergency preparedness practice run. In the event of a real public health outbreak, such as a bioterrorist attack or pandemic flu, health officials would need to immunize large numbers of people quickly. In Saturday's exercise, local public health departments and nursing services at 29 different sites dispensed flu shots. Health officials monitored from an emergency operations center, coordinating efforts and identifying challenges. In Denver, only about a fourth of the available vaccines were used, partly because many people had a hard time finding the site. "We've already learned a couple of lessons," said a doctor with Denver Public Health. "That's one of them, being that we probably needed to communicate effectively where we need to come in. But I think those are lessons learned that we can take home to say how we can improve in an event of a real disaster." The exercise was designed by the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The three-day exercise began Thursday as vaccines were delivered to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for distribution to various vaccination sites. The Colorado National Guard transported the vaccine Friday to two sites in southeastern and southwestern Colorado. More vaccine was distributed via ground transportation by the state health department. The \$60,000 exercise was funded by federal grant dollars from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Source:

[http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Mass-Vaccination-Drill-Reveals-Challenges/1\\$6570](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Mass-Vaccination-Drill-Reveals-Challenges/1$6570)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

25. *November 20, Network World* – (National) **Hackers poised for Black Friday assault.** Security researchers say hackers are poised to launch a slew of Web-based attacks against consumers. "The holiday season in general is a huge time for hackers ... [and] Black Friday is typically the start," says the vice president of strategic accounts for Secure Computing. "This year, my biggest concern for consumers is all the Web-borne malware out there." Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is followed in marketing lingo by Cyber Monday. Both are big days for retailers and online fraudsters. Consumers should watch out for e-mails advertising incredible deals that seem too good to be true. "Freebies may be freebies in the sense that you get free malware," says a senior threat researcher at Trend Micro. A common scam is to pick the hot toy of the

season and send out a spam e-mail blast offering it for much less than the typical price, one researcher said. Victims end up entering credit card information on malicious sites designed to look like well-known, trusted ones. They might also unknowingly download a keylogger that can steal personal information people type in when making any kind of Internet transaction. "Be leery of sites being advertised [in e-mail that might be spam]. In all likelihood you're being directed to a malware-connected site," he said. "Do not click on URLs within e-mails even for well-known public sites." In an HTML e-mail, it is a trivial task for hackers to hide the real URL a victim is clicking on. "It might say 'ebay.com,' but you're actually clicking on something entirely different," he says. In addition to being wary of e-mails, be careful when searching for holiday deals or specific products on Google and other search engines. Operators of malicious sites have figured out ways to rise to the top of search listings, researchers warn.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9048038&intsrc=hm_list

26. *November 20, Computerworld* – (National) **Hackers jack Monster.com, infect job hunters.** Monster.com took a portion of its Web site offline Monday as researchers reported that it had been compromised by an IFrame attack and was being used to infect visitors with a multi-exploit attack kit. According to Internet records, the Russian Business Network (RBN) hacker network may be involved. Parts of the Monster Company Boulevard, which lets job hunters search for positions by company, were unavailable Monday; by evening, the entire section was dark. Most major American companies are represented on the site. Job seekers who used Monster's by-company directory on Monday before the site was yanked were exposed to Neosploit, an attack tool kit similar to the better-known Mpack, said the chief technology officer at Exploit Prevention Labs Inc. The injection of the malicious IFrame code into the Monster.com site probably happened Monday, he added. Like many other IFrame exploits, this one silently redirected the user's browser to another site hosting Neosploit. In the case of at least one of the exploit sites the researcher identified, there is a connection to the notorious RBN, the hacker and malware hosting network that recently shifted operations to China, then mysteriously abandoned the IP blocks it had acquired in China, seemingly vanishing from the Internet.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9048019&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

27. *November 20, IDG News Service* – (Ohio; National) **‘Swatters’ tricked AT&T while making fake 911 calls.** A Cleveland, Ohio, man has pled guilty to participating in a scheme that involved using AT&T employee passwords and identities to place false 911 calls to emergency dispatch centers. The man is facing up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine after pleading guilty to charges of harassing people by tricking 911 operators into dispatching police SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) teams to the homes of unsuspecting victims. He was part of a group of about 15 to 20 people who met in chat rooms and telephone party lines to exchange information on how to conduct their attacks, according to court documents. The Ohio man is considered the lead defendant in a federal case against members of the group. Two other members have pled guilty, and two others are still facing trial. Virtually unknown until recently, “swatting” gained national attention last month when a 19 year-old was arrested after allegedly dispatching a SWAT team to the home of an unsuspecting couple in Orange County, California. That incident cost county officials nearly \$20,000. On Friday, the 19-year-old pled not guilty to charges stemming from the March 29 incident. He is not believed to be connected with the other ‘swatter’ group, which has been connected to about 60 incidents, including one in January 2007, according to a detective with the Snohomish County Sherriff’s Office in Washington State.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/11/20/Swatters-tricked-ATT-while-making-fake-911-calls_1.html

28. *November 19, IDG News Service* – (National) **Study: Internet could run out of capacity in two years.** Consumer and corporate use of the Internet could overwhelm the Internet’s current capacity and lead to brown-outs by 2010 unless backbone providers invest up to \$137 billion in new capacity, more than double what service providers plan to invest, according to a study by Nemertes Research Group, an independent analysis firm. In North America alone, backbone investments of \$42 billion to \$55 billion will be needed in the next three to five years to keep up with demand, Nemertes said. The study is the first to “apply Moore’s Law (or something very like it) to the pace of application innovation on the ‘Net,’” the study says. “Our findings indicate that although core fiber and switching/routing resources will scale nicely to support virtually any conceivable user demand, Internet access infrastructure, specifically in North America, will likely cease to be adequate for supporting demand within the next three to five years.” The study confirms long-time concerns of the Internet Innovation Alliance (IIA), an advocacy group focused on upgrading U.S. broadband networks, said the group’s co-chairman. The study gives “good, hard, unique data” on the IIA concerns about network capacity, he said. The Nemertes study suggests demand for Web applications like streaming and interactive video, peer-to-peer file transfers, and music downloads will accelerate, creating a demand for more capacity.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/11/19/Internet-could-run-out-of-capacity-in-two-years_1.html

Commercial Facilities Sector

29. *November 20, Journal Register* – (Connecticut) **Gas leak closes part of Westbrook.** A natural gas leak forced a dozen businesses in downtown Westbrook, Connecticut, and a stretch of Route 1 to close for more than an hour Monday morning, after a contractor accidentally pulled a service line away from the main gas line. Officials evacuated a “triangle through town,” one that included a few private homes, about 12 businesses and portions of Route 1 and Route 153. Businesses that were not evacuated because of the leak were affected as the road was blocked. Orange-based Southern Connecticut Gas was called in to repair the leak and was able to patch the pipe before noon. There was no major damage, and a permanent replacement part was expected Monday afternoon
Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19040283&BRD=1645&PAG=461&dept_id=571463&rft=6
30. *November 19, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Keeping business afloat after I-35 bridge collapse.** On Monday evening Minneapolis officials took walking tours through commercial areas affected by the I-35 bridge collapse. While some businesses experienced up to 40% declines in sales in the first week after the bridge failed, many have bounced back, said the director of community planning and economic development. Eleven businesses took advantage of federally insured low-interest loans offered to small businesses after the collapse, and only one has closed.
Source: <http://www.startribune.com/10241/story/1562062.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

31. *November 19, Agence France-Press* – (International) **Fears in U.S. that Canada mining threatens pristine nature park.** Two energy exploration projects in western Canada are raising fears among U.S. environmentalists of irreversible ecological damage to a pristine expanse of the Rocky Mountains. Montana is hoping to convince British Columbia to abandon proposals to explore for coal and natural gas in the Flathead valley, an expansive, mountainous region shared by the two countries. On the American side of the valley lies Glacier National Park, while the Canadian section forms the Waterton Lakes National Park. Together, they comprise the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which is listed by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization as one of its world heritage sites. The same organization has declared both Biosphere Reserves, as well. Critics say the mining project runs the risk of spoiling the pristine waters and fragile ecosystem of parks on both the Canadian and US sides of the Rocky Mountains, which have come to symbolize peace and friendship between the two countries. Canadian authorities have assured officials in Montana that exhaustive efforts will be taken to ensure that the ecological wonderland on their shared border remains unspoiled. Both energy exploration projects are in the initial application stage, as officials seek construction permits.
Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5ibuncfZwBFiHqCUHVq1-FZLcOEIA>

Dams Sector

32. *November 19, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (California) **Quake study paints dire picture of Delta.** The governor of California is among a growing number of people who believe the threat of a major earthquake is the main reason the California levee system is in desperate need of a multi-billion dollar overhaul. However, others claim the threat of a big quake in the Delta is over-stated, despite what scientists and history say. A controversial study paints a dire picture for the Delta, if, and when, the big one hits. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is currently studying exactly what might happen to the levee system if a 6.5 quake hits east of San Francisco. According to DWR's Delta Risk Management Strategy, minutes after a large quake hits, dozens, if not hundreds of levees could fail, flooding thousands of acres of farm and residential land. Within hours, as many as 30 Delta islands could liquefy or flood, endangering more than 9,000 residents and causing the contamination of drinking water for 23 million Californians for months, even years. According to the study, in the Delta alone, a large Bay Area earthquake could cost California more than \$400 billion dollars in economic losses and irreparable damage to a fragile ecosystem. The Delta Risk Management Strategy is currently in draft form and under review by a committee of scientists and engineers. It will be highly scrutinized and likely revised before its expected final release next year.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=assignment_7&id=5771546

33. *November 18, News-Press* – (Florida) **Lake O plan open for comment; water restrictions likely.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened a final 30-day comment period on Friday for its plan to manage Lake Okeechobee in Florida at lower levels. The plan was developed after high water levels followed the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons and resulted in massive discharges of nutrient-rich freshwater that was blamed for harming the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers. But now, with low water levels, there are concerns it could make drought a more frequent part of life in Southwest Florida. In addition, water levels must be kept lower to relieve pressure on Lake Okeechobee's aging Herbert Hoover Dike to protect rim communities. Analysis suggests the dike is likely to fail if water climbs above 17.5 feet. The \$850 million rehabilitation effort that began this year is expected to take two decades because Congress is only funding it at a rate of about \$50 million a year. "The Corps has a huge responsibility for public safety," the district's director of operations control said. "Unfortunately, it does potentially lead to more frequent water restrictions. That's something that we are going to have to work on."

Source:

<http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071118/NEWS0105/71118018/1075>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.